

## GOD'S WISDOM & WARNINGS REGARDING WHO YOU SHOULD FINANCIALLY SUPPORT

### A. God Wants You to Wisely Use the Money and/or Financial Resources He provides You ...

1. **ULTIMATELY**, to \_\_\_\_\_ by being a wise and faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of everything He has given you. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:2)

This involves repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ upon your position and freedom in Christ and then \_\_\_\_\_ **to the Lord** as a willing \_\_\_\_\_ to do His will, as His son/servant, according to His Word, enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in keeping with the grace of God, including in the area of \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 6-8, 12:1-8)

Remember the basic principle of giving which we established early in this series? The underlying pattern of giving has been basically the **SAME** throughout history involving \_\_\_\_\_ **GIVING** (a form of taxation for believers and unbelievers alike) and \_\_\_\_\_ **GIVING** (voluntary giving for believers only).

### 2. SPECIFICALLY...

#### a. To pay your \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) **Mark 12:13-17** - What do we learn from this? What if you disagree with the tax?
- 2) **Romans 13:6-7** - What if the government is corrupt?

#### b. To meet your \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 1) **Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-2**

- What is a trans-dispensational or permanent principle?
- What does "honoring your parents" involve?
- How were the Pharisees of Jesus' day seeking to bypass this imperative? (Matt. 15:1-5)
- How did our Lord address this violation of the WOG? (Matt. 15:6-9)

##### 2) **Proverbs 22:26-27** - What does this "proverb" teach us as a general axiom?

##### 3) **1 Timothy 5:3-8** - Who should be the first source of financial provision regarding family members in need, especially widows?

##### 4) **1 Timothy 5:9-10** - Should the local church ever assist in these financial matters?

##### 5) **1 Timothy 5:11-16** - Does the financial need of a believer mean that the local church must meet this need?

#### c. To meet \_\_\_\_\_.

**1) Ephesians 4:28**

- What is the perspective under-girding all these imperatives in Ephesians 4?
- What is the wrong way to acquire financial resources?
- What is the normal means to acquire financial resources?
- How and for who are these financial resources to be wisely used?

**2) Proverbs 14:21** - How does God want you to respond to the physical / financial needy?

**3) Proverbs 19:17** - If you are gracious to the poor, who are you lending to & how will He respond?

**4) James 1:27**

- What does “religion” mean in this verse?
- What does it mean to “visit” the needy?
- Why are orphans and widows especially highlighted?

**5) 1 John 3:17-18** - What can we learn from this?

d. To willingly give to the \_\_\_\_\_ to support your own scripturally sound \_\_\_\_\_ ministries & \_\_\_\_\_ for the furtherance of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Word of God. (2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:6-8; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)

**B. God Wants You to Exercise BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT When Supporting Individuals, Local Churches and Christian Ministries regarding ...**

**1. WHO you SHOULD financially support? {God’s wisdom}**

a. Start with your own doctrinally sound local church \_\_\_\_\_ who spiritually feed and lead you.

• **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

- What are faithful elders to be concentrating on by way of priority?
- What are faithful pastors / elders deserving of from believers they minister to?
- What is the scriptural rationale for this?
- How would this have been different from their past for the Jewish believers in Christ at Ephesus?
- What can you learn from this?

• **1 Corinthians 9:1-18**

- What again is the scriptural rationale for the financial support of those who teach The WOG and spiritually minister to you? (9:1-11a)

Key Verses: Proverbs 3:9; 1 Timothy 5

Key Words: Finances, Money

- What are the minister's options regarding receiving offered financial support? (9:11b-12)
  - While Paul exercised his liberty in this issue of receiving support, what was the norm regarding giving and expected support? (9:13-14)
  - Why didn't Paul follow the norm of receiving financial support? (9:15-16) Yet, didn't Paul do this on some occasions?
  - Is there a place to be bi-vocational in ministry if the teacher is so inclined and/or the church / ministry can't fully support him?
  - What must the "minister" remember when it comes to the meeting of his/her financial needs & what must the local church or individual believers remember regarding support as well?
- **Galatians 6:6**
    - What are believers commanded to do to those who teach them the WOG? What does this assume?
    - Why might this imperative be needed for these Galatian believers?
    - How does this apply to you?
- b. Include also, if possible, doctrinally sound \_\_\_\_\_ that clearly preach the Gospel, evangelize the lost, establish believers, plant churches, etc.**
- **Philippians 4:10-20**
    - What had Paul learned regarding his needs? What was his secret? (4:10-13)
    - Paul also recognized that God oftentimes uses human means to accomplish spiritual ends. What does this include & how did Paul commend these giving believers who supported him, while not guilting others? (4:14)
    - What are you supporting when you support scripturally sound missionaries? (4:15)
    - What was the Philippian church doing by their giving? (4:16)
    - What would their grace-giving support of this missionary result in from the Lord? (4:17)
    - How did God meet Paul's needs and what did the Lord think of their grace-giving? (4:18)
    - Like we observed in 2 Cor. 9:8, what does God promise to those who wisely grace-give as unto the Lord to support the furtherance of the Gospel? (4:19)
    - When the Gospel goes forth from sound and supported missionaries through the grace-giving of individual believers or local churches, who needs to be commended and who needs to be acknowledged and ultimately honored? (4:20)
  - **3 John 5-8**
    - What was Gaius commended for? What can you learn from this? (1:5a)

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- Who were the “brethren” and “strangers” he ministered to? (1:5b)
- Was his gracious hospitality & ministry verified and what was it proof of? (1:6)
- Why is it important to support ministers / ministries like this? Is this principle followed today by local churches and Christian ministries? (1:7)
- Should we support sound Gospel preachers, etc. & what does this result in? (1:8)

## 2. WHO you should NOT support? {God’s warnings}

### a. God does NOT want you to support those pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc. that DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

- **2 John 7-12**

- How should you respond to those who do not hold fast to the Gospel of Christ?
- If you disregard this warning and support them, what will be true of you?
- Is this separation based on doctrine and lack of support inconsistent with agape love?

- **Romans 16:17-18**

- How does God want faithful believers to respond to those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the scriptural doctrine they have learned?
- If you disregard God’s warning and still support them, what are you actually doing?
- What should local churches or individual Christians do when it comes to those they either support or are considering doing so?

- **2 Corinthians 2:17** - What must we be wary of and be different than? What is the way or error of Balaam? (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Rev. 2:14)

- **Galatians 1:6-10** - What does God state of those ministries that preach “another gospel”? How should this affect your support of them?

- **1 Timothy 6:17-21** - What is God’s wisdom to the rich believer and His warning to all?

### b. God does NOT want you to financially support those who are able to work but \_\_\_\_\_ to work. (2 Thess. 3:6-15)

- How were these individuals described? (3:6)
- What was Paul’s own example and his previous command to this local church? (3:7-10)
- What are Paul’s present instructions toward those walking “disorderly”? (3:11-12)
- What are Paul’s instructions to the rest of the believers in Thessalonica? (3:13-15)